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Message Text

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64
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

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---------- 022947
P R 202344Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OGEN, UR

SUBJECT: OPSAIL '76

REF: STATE A-1419 OF MARCH 10, 1976

1. SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY TREPYKHALIN CALLED ON DEPT (SOV) APRIL 20 TO INFORM IT OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS OF OPERATION SAIL '76. TREPYKHALIN STATED THAT SOVIET SAIL TRAINING VESSEL, "KRUZHENSHTERN," OWNED BY MINISTRY OF FISH INDUSTRY, WILL TAKE PART IN TRANSATLANTIC RACE FROM PLYMOUTH (ENGLAND) VIA BERMUDA TO NEWPORT, R.I. "KRUZHENSHTERN" HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR PLYMOUTH AND IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THERE APRIL 29. ALSO STATED SOVIET SAIL TRAINING VESSEL, "TOVARISHCH," OWNED BY MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE, WILL TAKE PART IN RACE BUT HE ADDED THAT
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HE HAD NO DETAILED INFORMATION FROM MOSCOW ON ITS

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ITINERARY. HE APPEARED UNCERTAIN WHETHER "TOVARISHCH" WILL ACTUALLY PARTICIPATE.

2. TREPYKHALIN ALSO SAID THAT "KRUZHENSHTERN," FOLLOWING GRAND REVIEW IN NEW YORK, JULY 4, WILL SAIL TO BOSTON FOR

OPSAIL EVENTS THERE AND THENCE TO BALTIMORE FOR FURTHER OPSAIL ACTIVITIES. SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR HOME JULY 15. SINCE CLEARANCE HEIGHT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE IS 186 FEET, REQUEST EMBASSY ASCERTAIN CLEARANCE HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR "KRUZHENSHTERN."

3. DEPT HAD HEARD THAT ONE OR MORE SOVIET SUPPORT VESSELS WOULD ACCOMPANY SAILING SHIPS TAKING PART IN OPSAIL. TREPYKHALIN HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS. IN VIEW LIKELY CROWDED BERTHING CONDITIONS AT NEW YORK AND OTHER PORTS INVOLVED IN OPSAIL, REQUEST EMBASSY ASCERTAIN WHETHER SOVIETS INTEND TO SEND AUXILIARY VESSELS AND, IF SO, WHAT THEIR ITINERARY WILL BE.

4. DEPT ALERTED TREPYKHALIN TO POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS OF LARGE PUBLIC EVENT SUCH AS OPSAIL, ESPECIALLY IN NEW YORK. US AUTHORITIES, HE WAS TOLD, WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, BUT THEY COUNTED ON SHIPS TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN SECURITY ON BOARD. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THIS TO PROPER SOVIET AUTHORITIES. ROBINSON

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